

## **Consolidation of Maryland Biological Sampling Data for Inclusion in ACCSP Data Warehouse Project Progress Report**

### **Objectives**

The following objectives were identified for this project:

1. To identify those databases within the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (MD DNR) system which contain fishery dependent biological sampling data.
2. To analyze the methods and circumstances of data collection to determine if they are suitable for inclusion in the ACCSP Biological Module.
3. To create a database that will permit consolidation of fishery dependent biological sampling data for Maryland.
4. Upload these data in the ACCSP data warehouse.

### **Project Manager**

Applicants for the project manager position were interviewed on March 21, 2007, and the incumbent began employment on June 1, 2007. The project manager operates primarily out of the Maryland DNR headquarters in Annapolis, MD, with occasional visits to the ACCSP office in Washington, DC.

### **Activities Completed**

- 1) Contact all project leaders and obtain information on available data sets.
  - a) The project manager has successfully contacted all MD DNR project leaders and obtained information on the available data sets. Thus far, Maryland DNR personnel have been most cooperative and helpful. Everyone has been very responsive to requests. Continued collaboration and input will lead to the creation of a user friendly, standardized useful database.
  - b) An inventory of data sets, including storage location, file type, contact person and other characteristics was created.
- 2) Determine what datasets are suitable for inclusion in the central fishery dependent biological sampling database.
  - a) Data sets were examined and their suitability for inclusion in the Biological Module was ascertained.

- b) The variable definitions and utilized code were confirmed with each project's supervising biologist.
- c) 14 data sets were collected for use in this project.
  - i) 110 individual files
  - ii) 175 years of data are collectively represented
- 3) Create a database that will permit consolidation of fishery dependent biological sampling data for Maryland
- 4) Populate database with biological sampling data from MD DNR
- 5) Coordinate and initiate process to create a centralized data storage system for MD DNR Fisheries Service – Maryland Fisheries Information Network (MFIN)
  - a) The project manager worked with the MD DNR staff to develop a comprehensive data dictionary for use across all projects.
  - b) Several meetings were held with MD DNR staff, one attended by ACCSP staff, to provide options and alternatives for data entry, storage and access.

#### **Activities in Progress**

- 1) Due to the nature of the data collected in this project, it is not possible at this time to map all of the data to current ACCSP codes. The ACCSP staff is currently in the process of creating new codes for this purpose. When this work is complete, the data collected in this process will be mapped into ACCSP code and loaded into the data warehouse.
- 2) The ACCSP staff will continue to work with MD DNR staff on the formation of a centralized database as requested.

#### **Additional Notes**

The project manager moved to a permanent position as Data Coordinator at the ACCSP on November 15, 2007; however, continued to work with MD DNR as necessary and will continue to do so in the future. As such, approximately half of the funds granted for this project will be used to expand the scope of the Information Technology Support for Maryland Data Collection, Storage and Transfer in Support of ACCSP Objectives project funded for the 2008 fiscal year.